

BiblioNEWS

CONCORDIA LIBRARIES

Date February 5th 1991

Vol.1 No.4

This issue contains a questionnaire. What do you think of BiblioNEWS? Please take the time to reply as soon as you receive this issue. Help us to determine the future direction of BiblioNEWS.

Just a reminder! FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Contributions are always welcome. Deadline for publishing in the next issue is Feb. 25. Just leave your signed articles or suggestions for newsworthy items with any member of the ed. board. Nicest for us, but not essential, would be your idea or story on a diskette in WordPerfect 4.2, accompanied by a hard copy. Just be sure your name is on it, and we'll return the diskette to you. Thanks!

"Just the FAX, Ma'am....."

We've come to expect the classic 'White' and 'Yellow' pages in the University's Internal Telephone Directory. But, did you notice that the latest edition (1990-91) borrows yet another shade from the colour spectrum: 'classic grey'. The information in these new 'Grey Pages' covers University FAX numbers as well as electronic mail codes.

Why bring this up? Well, last November Tech. Services acquired a FAX machine of its own! The Internal Telephone Directory, issued in October, doesn't list us, so if you're in a hurry to send T.S. your 'bons mots' by FAX, here's the number to note: 935-0658.

Just add it to the 'Additional FAX Numbers' section on page 3 of the new Grey Pages. Hope to hear from you!

WHO'S WHERE

This list, drawn up with the help of ASO, covers the Staff Establishment as of January 15, 1991.

ASO

Joseph Princz (N-615), Irene Sendek (N-704), and Lillian Rubinlicht are sharing the duties of Acting Director until a new director is appointed. During this period, Lillian will occupy room N-703.

Kathleen Waterhouse has resigned from the university. We wish her the best for the future.

Norris Library Stacks

Rosemary Barrett is acting as Stack Attendant until September 27, 1991. She replaces John Chyzenski.

On January 8, 1990, Karen Pilkington began to work as a part-time Stack Attendant.

Circulation

John Chyzenski is acting as Evening Circulation Clerk in Norris, replacing George Brunetti. The appointment extends from November 26, 1990 to November 27, 1991. Michael Thoms is acting a Circulation Clerk, replacing Arnaldo Brunetti. The appointment runs from January 10, 1991 to January 8, 1993.

ILL

Joy Bennett is on sabbatical until May 31, 1991.

Media Centre

Loren Lerner is on leave until November, 1991. She will be replaced by Jackie Dealy.

SEL

Arnaldo Brunetti is acting as



Circulation Clerk, replacing **Ciaran Hopkins**. The appointment runs from December 10, 1990 to January 8, 1993.

Technical Services

Welcome back to **Linda Quartz**, who returned from maternity leave on January 7, 1991.

Cataloguing

Irene Puchalski has left the Library to take up a position in the Slide Library. Best of luck to her!

Judy Li began maternity leave on January 7, 1991. She will return on June 11, 1993.

Susie Martin was appointed to a full-time position in Processing on December 17, 1990. Unfortunately, she is now on long-term sick leave.

Jan Strudwick was appointed to the permanent part-time position in Processing.

Pamela Davies is acting as Clerk/typist until June 11, 1993, replacing **Judy Li**.

Vanier Library

June Martin is unfortunately on long-term sick leave.

Shawn Mackniak has been appointed Stack Attendant.

Other Developments

The Mailroom was last seen in N-530.

COLLECTIONS 'ON THE MEND': WHAT COLLECTION REFURBISHING IS ALL ABOUT

As the cost of books spirals ever upwards these days, preserving existing collections is an ongoing concern to most libraries. Concordia's library is no exception. About three years ago, under the guidance of our Head of Acquisitions, **Bob Wrightson**, something was done about it. Bob had pursued studies on conservation and preservation at Columbia's School of Library Service; this background helped him assess the techniques and materials used in the Library's in-house repairs at the

time. The results: a streamlining of repair operations, and the creation of a full-time LA-B position unlike any other in the Library (or indeed, in most other libraries across the province). The position's primary focus is on the maintenance of heavily-used books - in other words, those on the verge of falling apart. During the summer months, refurbishing projects play an important part in spotting deterioration problems in areas as diverse as Norris reference tools and (more recently) the Fine Arts collection. Success in this venture may be measured by the increased 'shelf life' of the tools of our trade - the books that grace our shelves.

The future looks promising for collection refurbishing. CREPUQ recently established a study group on conservation and preservation issues in Quebec's university libraries. As an active member of this group, Bob is encouraged by what he sees as an increased awareness of the need to preserve existing library collections. He hopes that this will, in fact, lead to a more systematic approach to collection preservation. Faced with rising book production costs and the soon-to-be-added expense of the GST, we share that hope.

Who holds the position of Collection Refurbisher?

What does she think of it? We interviewed **Carol Clement** recently, and this is what she had to say...

Biblionews: Carol, your job is unique in the Concordia system. Can you tell us a bit about it?

Carol: The position title is Collection refurbisher, and what it mainly involves is repairs: hinge tightening, rebacking, resetting in case, and tipping in replacement pages and loose leaves.

Biblionews: Translation?

Carol: Hinge tightening is gluing down endpapers and super along the spine, where the weight of the book has caused them to begin to pull away. Rebacking is applying a new spine to a book. Resetting in case means putting the text block into the old case - the case is the cover - by applying new endpapers and super (the cloth which is glued to the spine of the textblock.)

Biblionews: Anything else?

Carol: Every kind of book repair is done here except resewing books back together; we don't have the special equipment needed to do that. What I like to do best, though, is to make protective enclosures - known to you lay people as boxes.

Biblionews: Do you do anything about brittle paper?

Carol: There is not much that anyone can do about it. We use the fold test for deterioration caused by acidity: a corner of a page is folded three times in both directions, and if it falls off, the paper may be said to be brittle. Brittle books are given to the subject selector to decide their fates: they may be discarded, replaced, photocopied or placed in a box.

Biblionews: How do books that need repair get to you?

Carol: The libraries send them to Acquisitions, where Bob Wrightson picks out those which can be repaired in-house and sends most of the rest out to be rebound. (A few cannot be saved, owing to missing leaves, brittle paper or narrow inner margins which make it impossible to rebind.) Sometimes I scan the shelves in a designated subject area for suitable candidates. Minor repairs, notably hinge tightening, have been done on the spot, at least in the Norris Library.

Biblionews: Your work area is full of devices that resemble instruments

of torture. What are they?

Carol: A lying press, a combination press, two small presses, scissors, scalpels and microspatulas. The peaceful-looking objects that you see are rolls of book cloth, jugs of PVA glue and sheets of Caribou board, rough-surfaced beige board used for protective enclosures. It is made by hand here in Montreal by the Papeterie St-Armand.

Biblionews: Your position is relatively new; it was created only about two and a half years ago. Why did you apply when it was posted?

Carol: It offered an opportunity to work on my own.

Biblionews: Do you still enjoy it?

Carol: Yes.

Biblionews: Is there enough work to keep you busy?

Carol: For about the next twenty years.

Caroll Paradis and
Margaret Ferley

THE PERILS OF A SUBSCRIPTION AGENT

With the kind permission of Rita Schley-Pepin, we reprint part of a Christmas letter to her from Heather Steele of Blackwell's Periodicals Division:

Plus ca change....

John Merriman (former director of Blackwell's Periodicals Division - ed.) has made me temporary guardian of his file of rather unusual letters and requests from publishers and customers. In keeping with the holiday spirit, I thought I should share some of them. I offer them as an explanation of why we can't always arrange for every issue/refund to be sent to you.



1.) from an Australian society:

"At last I am in a position to answer your claims for Journal series A - Volume XXII, part 1. The explanation is almost farcical.. It started with a postal worker who thought that an airmail parcel containing the proofs for part 1 contained a letter bomb. When it proved to be harmless it was sent on by surface mail. Then the publisher thought it might be a good idea to print and dispatch part 2 first and someone in Australia approved this ludicrous suggestion."

2.) from the editors of Disasters:

"The editors of Disasters sincerely regret the delay in production of the last 2 issues of Volume 5 (i.e. numbers 3 and 4), which has been due to unavoidable technical problems."

3.) from the U.S. Government after we returned a photocopy of an unidentifiable cheque:

"There was enclosed in your letter a reproduction of the check drawn on the Treasurer of the United States. While we realize that you furnished the reproduction in the interests of helpfulness and for accurate identification this is a reminder that making reproductions for this purpose without prior authority is prohibited by Title 18, United States Code, Section 474. In future, if you feel that a copy of a US Treasurer's check is necessary please communicate with the nearest US Secret Service Office and they will be happy to discuss the matter with you."

4.) from a letter from the Anarchy collective addressed to "The Oppressed Working Staff at Blackwells. May your pay rise!":

"Unfortunately our records are in a bit of a state and we cannot trace the subscriber name in order to enter a record of this payment.

P.P.S. We are not 'Sirs' but 'people'!!! (even 'comrades!'). Hope you are well and can see the

stupidity of all this."

5.) from a literary journal:

"We don't publish this, get stuffed."

6.) from an Asian shell society:

"It is with much regret that I bring you the sad news that we have decided to suspend publication of our journal due to a very difficult economic situation in our country today. You therefore have a credit of \$21.45 representing unserved subscriptions. Since it is difficult for us to obtain foreign currency, we would like to offer the following alternative in refunding you credit: We could send you shells of an equivalent amount, postage to be billed."

7.) from a science fiction journal:

"You don't understand: the only way a subscriber can cancel a sub. is to die, literally."

8.) from a newsmagazine when we wrote asking for clarification of their special reduced rate to educators and clergy:

"Since, admittedly, the terms 'educators and clergy' are rather vague and subject to various interpretations, we feel the need to stress that the reduced rate can be enjoyed by those persons and institutions that are directly and actively engaged in either profession. If this is borne in mind it should not be difficult to determine who is entitled to the reduction and who is not. If we exclude the vast number of people and institutions who are almost educators and clergy of a sort and those who are neither fish nor fowl, we see for instance that Mary Poppins and the Vicar of Wakefield would be entitled to this special rate whereas Henry Higgins and Rasputin wouldn't."

9.) from a spiritualist society:

"We can only apologise for what seems to be a breakdown in communication."

...and from a library in Asia, a wonderful greeting:

"Dear and Considerate Friends,
Upholders of Civilization and Sanity,
Outpost of Gentility and Haven of
Reason, Greetings and Salutations."

THE NEW VANIER LIBRARY - TWO YEARS AFTER

As of January 9th, it has been 2 years since we moved into the new Vanier Library, although it is just over 1 year since the construction was finished and the opening of the completed library took place. Our new building, now one year old, has seen a tremendous increase in use.

The enlarged and more attractive study spaces, new equipment and uncrowded shelves have undoubtedly contributed to bringing greater numbers of students to Vanier Library. We have increased the number of student photocopiers from 2 in 1988 to 6 at the end of 1990 and the students still demand more. We have 7 brand new microfilm readers and although we have added 2 new microfilm reader/printers to our existing 2, at peak periods these are all in use with students waiting their turn. The Media Centre has seen its use more than double in all areas. Now centrally located and highly visible, the Media Centre allows students access to new equipment including VCR's, cassette decks, CD players as well as our 4 microcomputers counting our new Macintosh.

Our much greater size and the increased use of the new Vanier Library have meant many more demands on staff. Shelving increased 43 % last year and is going up higher again this year. Those uncrowded shelves invite students to leave

books piled up at the empty ends of shelves, thus slowing down the work of stack attendants. That extra 2730 m2 of library space also means longer distances to travel getting material back in place. Reference services increased 10 % last year and Circulation services went up by 21 %. We also have a new service point now, the Serials/Microform Desk. Here staff provide access to our newspaper collection and restricted periodicals as well as help students with microform equipment and finding periodicals.

Although greater size and more users bring some problems such as more noise and food in the Library, staff and students alike would agree that the new Vanier Library is a bright, attractive place to be and a wonderful improvement over our old quarters.

Judy Appleby

WHERE'S THE WOLF IN LONDON?

On November 28, 1990, a group of Canadians departed for a week's journey to London, England. The purpose of this voyage was to compete in local games of that breed of humans that spends many hours every day hoisting iron in a specifically prescribed fashion according to certain rules. These rules were originally composed by several older humans of the male gender. These specimen at first assured themselves that these rules would only apply to the members of the boys club. Fortunately, in light of the existence of two genders in the human race, the reality of these games has changed.

The adventure started by meeting at the great castle of the White Elephant of Mirabel. There jousts from across the land renewed friendships and had an impromptu meeting at a round table with a long-haired, earring-toting, middle-aged individual identified as the "coach"



for the journey, Claude H., of Concordia University's Vanier Library.

We were taken away to a tube-like creature that brought us in turn to a flying heap of metal garnering the inscription of British Airways. During the many hours of plastic existence in this machine, we were made to consume plastic-looking nutrients and were treated to large doses of visual and auditory brainwashing ranging from "Back to the Future" to images of humans projected on a piece of plastic, looking themselves like plastic androids talking about the miseries of this planet. We finally were ordered off this monster to walk on the land of England.

We were met by a large and fine human (1.93 m., 130 kg.) who guided us to the township of Croydon, in a house called "Crystal Palace Tower". There we met more fine people who made us feel welcome. Except that they all speak with a strange accent. Don't they know French or English as we do in Canada?

The area of London is indeed a large one, populated by over 8 million people, we were told. As is the case everywhere else on this planet, there are rich and powerful individuals and others who strive to survive with considerably less. Canadians are greatly welcomed but the natives of England did inquire about our own natives. "Are they dangerous? Do they still live in tents? Do you see many shoot-outs?" After dispelling some myths about North America, we got along fine.

Since our purpose for being there was of a competitive sport nature, the first four days were spent mostly in getting rid of travel webs and in preparing for the task at hand. Nevertheless, we managed to take in some of the sites, such as, Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. These places of prayer offer a type of insight into human history, belief, passion, pain, and

glory that this continent can't offer. Buildings dating back 800 to 1000 years allow one to touch in the cold grey stone the souls and emotions of those that were there before you. Where in Canada can you find a London Tower, a castle, a dungeon, or a fortress built 900 years ago? Walking in these museums of humanity brings forth a feeling of somber holiness. The European continent offers us a chance to touch, in the closest way left, the roots of our ancestry. Whether your interests are archaeological, religious, or literary, there is a place in that part of the world where you can touch and feel history.

The facilities for our sport endeavour were similar to the ones available in Montreal and the competition was an international one. Usually, Canadians figure lower on the final classification than the British athletes. This time however, every Canadian entered in competition came out ahead of his British counterpart. Needless to say, the athletes and myself, as coach, were tremendously pleased by these results. In fact, three of our athletes finished in first place in their respective class in the overall international standings.

Weight lifting is not well known in Canada, but in Europe it carries a better reputation. In Canada, athletes in this sport are unfortunately confused with bodybuilders. This sport, however, is not a narcissistic search for beauty. Instead, athletes strive to lift always heavier weights in two movements, the snatch and the clean and jerk. These are gifted people who defy gravity with great skill and determination.

I have been a coach at the National Team level for 12 years. Yes, the sport has gone through drug scandals, but I'm not part of the problem, I've been part of the solution. Excellence in this or any other activity requires intelligence, tenacity,

skill and a will the size of a library building. Opportunities such as this last trip to England do not fully reward the efforts of the participants, but they do reinforce the will to continue. The exposure to new settings and especially the cultural education that accompanies the excitement of the competition keeps me going.

Claude Hebert

`Twas the Season!...' in Tech.
Services

In an earlier BiblioNEWS, we wrote that in September, one of our long-time staff members, John Wojciechowicz, took the time (as he has in the past) to organize and inspire us all to raise money for The Gazette Christmas Fund. Although we concentrated mainly on bake sales, we also held contests (great fun identifying photos of staff members' children!) and raffles for prizes donated by staff or generous outside sources (restaurants, cinemas, radio stations, etc.). One of the most interesting and unique offerings was by a co-worker, who held a 'mini'-Japanese tea ceremony during morning and afternoon coffee breaks. The response was so great that she found herself in demand for well over a week!

Our efforts this past year raised over \$1,500 for the Gazette Christmas Fund. We enjoyed ourselves tremendously in the process, and are so pleased with the results that we already look forward to starting the fund-raising process all over again this coming Fall.

NORRIS CHRISTMAS AUCTION

The Norris Library staff raised \$915 for the Gazette Christmas fund at its auction held (in the Norris conference room) December 13, 1990. Thirty-nine people paid the 0.25 entrance fee to bid in just two hours

on over one-hundred items in cluding two books signed by their authors: **Irving Layton** and **Robert Bateman**.

Staff throughout the library system were most generous with their donations and Reference thanks you all for helping to make the auction the success it was.

Thank-you letters have been mailed to the four restaurants that donated gift certificates: **Tulip Noire**, **Pasquales**, **Harvey's**, **Red Lobster** and to the four book stores that were very supportive: **Avenue**, **Russells**, **Argo** and **Double Hook**.

Reference Staff looks forward to the 1991 edition of its auction so don't discard that Christmas present you received from aunt Melba. Instead, bring it to the auction where it can join the one item that failed in the auction to receive a high enough bid - the exact replica of the casket used by Snow White! It will return.

E. Bruce



100%
recycled



QUESTIONNAIRE : February 1991

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BiblioNEWS???

BiblioNEWS began with its first issue on October 2, 1990. In keeping with the Editorial Statement which appeared in that issue, the interim editorial board now seeks your opinions on the newsletter so that its future direction can best be planned. We ask that all those who receive BiblioNEWS, whether employees of Concordia Libraries or other designated recipients, respond to this survey. For your information, the Editorial Statement from Volume 1, Number 1, of October 2, 1990, is reprinted on the reverse of this form.

PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

(BY FEBRUARY 15, PLEASE!!) TO: Ruth Noble,SEL, H-1031-6

CHECK THE MOST APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO EACH QUESTION.

1. How much of each issue of BiblioNEWS do you usually read?
All, or nearly all _____ Some parts _____ Very little _____
2. How interesting do you find the contents, in the overall?
Quite interesting _____ Somewhat interesting _____
Not very interesting _____
3. Does BiblioNEWS provide you with useful information?
A lot _____ Some _____ Not much _____ None _____
4. Have you contributed anything to the BiblioNEWS to date?
Yes; written item(s) _____ / suggestion(s) for item(s) _____
No, nothing to date _____
5. Would you want to be involved in the production of BiblioNEWS in the future?
YES, possibly as a contributor _____
YES, interested in serving on the editorial board _____
NO, I would not be interested in active involvement. _____
6. How do you think the editorial board should be chosen?
From volunteers for the positions from each library and Technical Services? _____
By electing members to represent each library and Technical Services? _____
Don't care _____

YOUR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ARE WELCOME

Please let us know what you liked and/or disliked about BiblioNEWS. Were there any particular sections or articles you appreciated? What would you like to see in any future issues?

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of BiblioNEWS, the Concordia University Libraries newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to inform people of changes and developments within departments and to act as a forum for discussion of issues of general interest. It is informal in approach and does not represent the official policy of the university administration.

The members of the interim editorial board would like to introduce ourselves and to explain how we came to be appointed.

We are:	Joy Bennett*	Norris	7715
	Matt Seebruch	Norris	7690
	Thea Jones	Vanier	7736
	Luigina Vilen	Vanier	7760
	Ruth Noble	SEL	7723
	Shirley Fewster	SEL	7733
	Caroll Paradis	LL	7743
	Margaret Ferley	LL	7751

*replaced by Louise Carpentier

Lack of communication was a widespread concern expressed to Dr. Louis Vagianos and Dr. Catherine MacKenzie during their examination of the library.

Seeking to address this problem, Dr. Vagianos entrusted Irene Sendek with the responsibility of establishing a newsletter. In consultation with the Division Heads, she invited the present group to constitute the editorial board. Our mandate is to produce the publication quickly.

Since an appointed board may not fully represent the interests of the readers, we have declared ourselves to be an interim body. At the inaugural meeting of the board, the following motion was passed:

"Given the interim nature of this editorial board, the January or February 1991 issue should include a survey of its readers, relating to their interest in the newsletter and willingness to participate in the editorial process, or as contributors. The purpose of this survey is to establish recommendations for a smooth transition period in April or May 1991."

We expect to hand over operation of the newsletter to a reconstituted board at that time.